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WEEKEND, December 14-16, 2012



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TEAMMATES AGAIN

Halifax Mooseheads teammates and linemates Jonathan Drouin, left, and Nathan MacKinnon stand together during a news conference naming the team at the national junior selection camp in Calgary on Thursday. The 17-year-old forwards are the youngest players on the squad. See page 37. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No charges in alleged abuse case

Home for Colored Children. Police say investigation didn't yield strong enough evidence

Major-crime investigators in Halifax have wrapped up an investigation into alleged abuse at the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children without laying charges.

RCMP Chief Supt. Brian Brennan said Thursday a core team of four detectives conducted an "exhaustive" probe of claims from 40 former residents at the orphanage.

The investigators travelled through Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta, interviewing the complainants and potential witnesses. However, Brennan said they were unable to gather the evidence needed to lay criminal charges.

"At the end of the day, we look back and say, 'Did we do the best investigation we

Quoted

"My message to the residents would be to keep your head up — this is just another roadblock."

Tracey Dorrington-Skinner, former NSHCC resident

could?" and in this case we have no problem saying that," he said.

Dozens of former residents of the home located outside Dartmouth claim they were physically and sexually abused by orphanage staff. The allegations date back as far as the 1940s.

Brennan said the length of time that had elapsed since the alleged incidents proved a significant challenge.

"Memories fade, (people can't) recall details like names and places," he said. "Then it's the ability to find corroborating evidence, such as records, whether they be at the facility or outside locations."

Tracey Dorrington-Skinner, a former resident of the home, called the decision "disappointing."

Dorrington-Skinner, 47, was at the home for more than a decade, starting in the early 1970s. She alleges she suffered repeated sexual and physical abuse that left her mentally scarred.

"When you're that young and you've witnessed all the things that you've witnessed ... your mental state is, at its best, diminished," she said about the difficulty in recalling what she says happened to her.

More than 100 people are now a part of the bid for a class-action lawsuit against the home and provincial government. A court ruling is expected in June.

Brennan said anyone with information who hasn't already spoken to police is encouraged to come forward.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

More coverage, page 3



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Province ponders inquiry on Home for Colored Children

No charges. Opposition parties say government avoiding responsibility to investigate alleged abuse

 **ANDREW RANKIN**
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

The province's justice minister says he will take time to consult his caucus members before deciding whether to call a public inquiry into the alleged abuse at Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children.

Justice Minister Ross Landry says the RCMP's decision not to lay charges following its investigation will be factored into whether the government decides to launch an inquiry.

"We weren't sitting on the sidelines, saying we were going to make a decision today," said Landry after a cabinet meeting Thursday. "This is one piece of information that we would like to take into consideration."

VOICES, a group representing about 200 former residents of the orphanage, is set to lead a class-action suit in June.

"Though Landry wouldn't offer a date for a decision, he

Quoted



"At this time, I'm going to do a little more consultation with my colleagues, and with some other stakeholders and community people."

Justice Minister Ross Landry

said one would be announced before the hearing.

Last month, about 60 protesters arrived at the legislature armed with a 1,000-signature petition calling for the government to launch a public inquiry into long-standing allegations of physical and sexual abuse at the home.

Both opposition parties are demanding the province call an inquiry immediately.

Tory Leader Jamie Baillie said the NDP is "running out of excuses for avoiding the right thing."

"I don't know why they need to think longer about doing something as fundamentally humane and important as calling a public inquiry into what went on ultimately at the Home for Colored Children," said Baillie.



Tracey Dorrington-Skinner, a former resident of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children and co-chair of VOICES, shows a petition in front of Province House last month. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Like Baillie, Liberal community-services critic Kelly Regan said an inquiry would go far in the healing process for former residents and pro-

vide some justice for former residents.

"If the government doesn't act, folks who were at the Home for Colored Chil-

dren will continue to have to deal with what went on there alone," said Regan. "The government has a moral obligation to do this."

School saved from return of offender

Nova Scotia's education minister says parents in a small community should take time to heal after several days of anxiety over the possible return to the classroom of a teacher who was convicted of committing indecent acts.

Ramona Jennex says New Germany went through an emotional roller-coaster this week after learning Peter Speight was close to returning to the classroom.

The local school board

voted unanimously Wednesday night to accept a settlement with Speight that includes his resignation and surrendering his teaching licence.

The former teacher was convicted of committing

indecent acts, but an arbitrator's decision saying he should get his job back was upheld by the courts.

Under the deal announced Wednesday, Speight will receive compensation over and above the \$150,000 he's

owed in back pay.

Ramona Jennex would not reveal the financial details of the settlement but she said the school board will not be adversely affected.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Off the horse and onto the chair

RCMP Const. Sherri Curley donates some blood at the Canadian Blood Services branch on Bayers Road on Thursday afternoon. The RCMP are participating in the Red Surge for Life blood-donation campaign.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Suspicious deaths

Bodies of two men found after fire at rural camp

The RCMP are investigating a fire that has claimed the lives of two men.

RCMP spokesman, Cpl. Scott MacRae, says the fire was reported Wednesday at what's being described as either a cottage or hunting camp. He says the building, which was destroyed, is located off Highway 374 near Sheet Harbour.

He says the bodies were found in the rubble by firefighters. There's no word yet on the cause of the fire.

MacRae says police are treating the deaths as suspicious. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Mobile home. RCMP charge 26-year-old man after meth lab dismantled

A 26-year-old man faces drug- and weapons-related charges after police dismantled a methamphetamine lab near Truro, N.S.

RCMP say Lance Gordon Phillips of Hilden is charged with unlawfully possessing chemicals known to produce methamphetamine and also faces weapons charges after a vehicle search turned up a 12-gauge shotgun and some loose ammunition.

Officers used a remote-controlled robot during their search of a mobile home in Salmon River on Wednesday.

Police said there were

Chemical analysis

The residue in the mobile home has been sent to a Health Canada lab for analysis.

concerns because the chemicals used to make the highly addictive drug can be volatile and flammable.

The Mounties say the search of the mobile home turned up chemicals, equipment and residue of unidentified substances related to the production of methamphetamine. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NDP promise balanced budget despite large deficit

Tough task. Tories accuse government of misleading taxpayers, claiming Nova Scotia economy is weakest in country

 **ANDREW RANKIN**
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

The NDP government is still pledging to present a balanced budget next spring, despite forecasting a \$277-million deficit this year.

"The hill has gotten a little steeper to climb," said Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald, who announced details of the government's latest budget forecast on Thursday. "We all recognize that. But we will continue to make that steep climb."

The province is primarily blaming a "soft economy" for its latest projection, which is \$66 million higher than

forecast last spring, when the budget was unveiled. The province is forecasting \$61.7 million less in personal income tax as well as a \$1-million shortfall in corporate income-tax revenues.

And the total government revenue — \$100 million (\$47 million in provincial revenue and \$53 million in federal revenue) — has come in significantly lower than predicted last spring.

MacDonald pointed out that several other provinces, including New Brunswick and P.E.I., are showing lower than expected revenues and larger deficits.

But Tory Leader Jamie Baillie dismissed those comparisons, arguing that the province boasts the weakest economy in the country, with the highest taxes and power rates. He said the projected income-tax deficit reflects Nova Scotia's struggling economy and the province's inability to find a solution.

"This is an NDP home-grown problem," said Baillie.

Deficit

NDP deficit forecasts for 2012-13 fiscal year:

- Dec. 2012: \$277.2 million
- Sept. 2012: \$249.3 million
- Spring 2012: \$211.2 million

The NDP government has pledged to balance the budget by the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The government's capital-spending forecast is also running a \$101-million deficit, thanks largely to the province's purchase of Bowater Mersey woodlands and the New Page subsidy plan.

MacDonald couldn't definitively say where potential new revenues might come from in the new year. But she added the government's hoping proposed infrastructure projects, such as the Irving Shipbuilding project and the Halifax convention centre, will become important cash sources.

Government-department spending is forecast to come in \$25.7 million lower than budget.

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New library gets million-dollar boost for quick startup

Gift. O'Regan family donate large sum in memory of late father



HALEY
RYAN

haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Judith Hare has received a \$1-million Christmas gift this year.

"It's spectacular. It's (a) dream," said Hare, CEO of Halifax Public Libraries, who accepted a cheque for \$1 million from the family-run O'Regan's Automotive Group on Thursday.

The donation was made in memory of the late Paul O'Regan, who died last March, and will go towards the Halifax Central Library being built on Spring Garden Road.

A large public area for performances or reading on the first floor will be named the Paul O'Regan Hall.

Wiping tears from his eyes, CEO of the company, Sean O'Regan, said his late father would have been proud to be a part of the Halifax Central Library.

"I'm sure some of his charm will rub off on this special place," said O'Regan during the announcement at the Lord Nelson Hotel.

"This is a huge bonus for us," Hare said. "The donation helps us put all the things inside the library the public said they wanted during the consultation."

Hare said since government support only covered the construction of the building, the money will cover the cost of books, computers and special equipment inside, like a small recording studio.

"There aren't very many places for teenagers in the city," said Hare. "People can make their own music ... but also they'll have a place to perform as well."

O'Regan said his family wanted to donate to the library because it was an exciting project that people actually know something about in the city.

"We wanted to make sure it had a good start, and became a reality quickly," O'Regan said.

Quoted

"It will exceed people's expectations of what a library can be."

Sean O'Regan



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Harrowing commute. Heroic student steers school bus to safety

A group of local students are "shaken up" but not injured after a harrowing ride to school Thursday morning. One student ended up steering the bus to a stop after the driver became incapacitated.

Sixteen-year-old Brady Dunham sprang to action when the bus driver experienced a medical issue at about 8:30 a.m.

The vehicle crossed the center line of the road and came to a rest in a field, after a close call with the Glooscap Restaurant, according to the local RCMP.

"The kids were shaken up,

Quote

"They're very lucky they got through it with no serious injuries."

Parrsboro Regional High School Principal Chester Clark

but not hurt," said Sgt. Allan Carroll of Cumberland RCMP. "I'm glad there's not more I have to tell you, because that bank is quite steep a little bit further back."

AMHERST DAILY NEWS

Sydney Tar Ponds. Contaminants contained

The cleanup of the Sydney Tar Ponds has cleared a major hurdle.

The federal and Nova Scotia governments say contaminants in the former north and south Sydney Tar Ponds have been contained in cement.

Close to 872,000 tonnes of contaminated material have been contained — about the equivalent of stacking up 112 football fields, each a

metre deep.

Work began in October to build a park on top of the former hazardous waste site, and the governments say the park is expected to be open to the public in the fall of next year.

They say the cleanup projects remains within its \$400-million budget and is scheduled to be complete by March 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP. Police arrest two, seize guns in stolen truck

RCMP say they have two people in custody after recovering a truck stolen in Eastern Passage.

Members of the Street Crime Unit, with help from the Insurance Bureau of Canada, carried out a search warrant on Lake Major Road at 2 p.m. Thursday and found the 2011 Dodge Ram.

It was stolen from Jeep Crescent on Dec. 7.

Police also found two handguns and three long guns dur-

By the numbers

5

The number of guns seized from the car.

ing Thursday's search.

A 33-year-old man and 58-year-old woman are in police custody and will be in court to face charges at a later date.

METRO



Minister of Education Ramona Jennex poses on Thursday with Bayview Education Centre students, from left, Grace Adams, Maggie Baxter, Connor Zink and Evan Hennigar. HALEY RYAN/METRO

Students fight cyber-bullying

Anti-bullying campaign. New video says bullying can be cured with kindness



HALEY RYAN

haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Evan Hennigar wants people to think twice before they send someone a nasty online message.

"We're people, not profiles," said the 11-year-old, who helped create an anti-cyber-bullying campaign with three other Bayview Education Centre students from Mahone Bay.

The roughly 20-second

Quote

"We're people, not profiles."

Evan Hennigar, an 11-year-old student, talking about how people should think about the person before sending a nasty online message

campaign video was revealed at the Oxford Theatre Thursday morning to an audience of Halifax students, and relates bullying to a virus that can be cured with kindness.

Grace Adams, Maggie Baxter and Connor Zink all helped Hennigar plan the campaign and worked with a marketing team to create the final product.

"It was really exciting, I was just sitting there seeing our video on that big

screen," said Adams.

Adams said cyber-bullying was an important issue for her because a friend at her previous school had been a victim.

"She didn't go to school after awhile.... When she'd go home, she'd cry a lot," Adams said, adding she felt "terrible" about her friend being called dirty names.

But Adams said she thinks her friend would be proud to know about her role in the campaign now.

Big audience

- The video will play in Empire Theatres across the province during the holiday season, as well as at Halifax Mooseheads and Cape Breton Screaming Eagles hockey games.

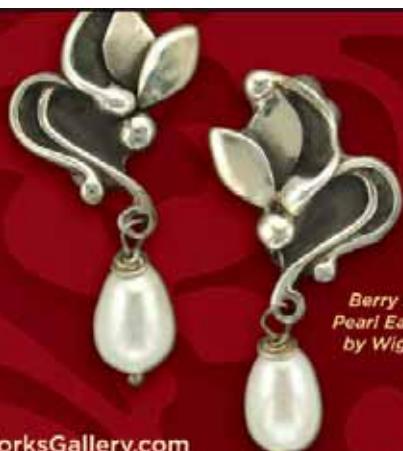
Minister of Education Ramona Jennex said working with the kids on the cyber-bullying campaign was a "profound experience."

"I was deeply moved," Jennex said. "I was taken with how deeply this affects them and how much they want to do to solve the problem."

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South Africa. Mandela, 94, honoured as he recovers from lung troubles

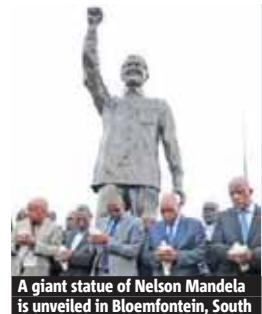
South African President Jacob Zuma on Thursday honoured anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, who has been hospitalized since the weekend to recover from a lung infection.

Zuma unveiled a statue of Mandela in the city of Bloemfontein, also called Mangaung, which next week hosts the ruling African National Congress party's convention.

"We will be able to yet again pay tribute to a man who became a symbol of both our struggle for freedom and the free and democratic South Africa," Zuma said.

Mandela, 94, was admitted on Saturday to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria, the capital.

"As we meet, Madiba is recuperating from a lung infection at a Pretoria hospital," Zuma said, using Mandela's clan name, often used here as a sign of affection. "We wish him a speedy recovery and assure



A giant statue of Nelson Mandela is unveiled in Bloemfontein, South Africa, Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

him yet again of the love and support of many in the country and abroad."

Zuma made the remarks while dedicating an airport in the name of Bram Fischer, a white South African who was also a key figure in the struggle against apartheid, the system of white rule that collapsed in 1994. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Election night. Four disciplined after racially charged campus uproar

Quoted

"The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places."

From the student code of the private, tradition-bound school founded in 1775.

One student has been expelled and three others are being punished for their roles in a racially charged uproar on a Virginia college campus the night of U.S. President Barack Obama's re-election, the school said Thursday.

They were among approximately 40 students who gathered outside the Minority Student Union at Hampden-Sydney College on the night of Nov. 6 within minutes after Obama won a second term. Some shouted racial

slurs, tossed bottles, set off fireworks and threatened physical violence. Some left the building to confront the crowd. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Early Andersen fairy tale found

Hans Christian Andersen. Handwritten work called Tallow Candle may have been penned when the author was a teen: Experts

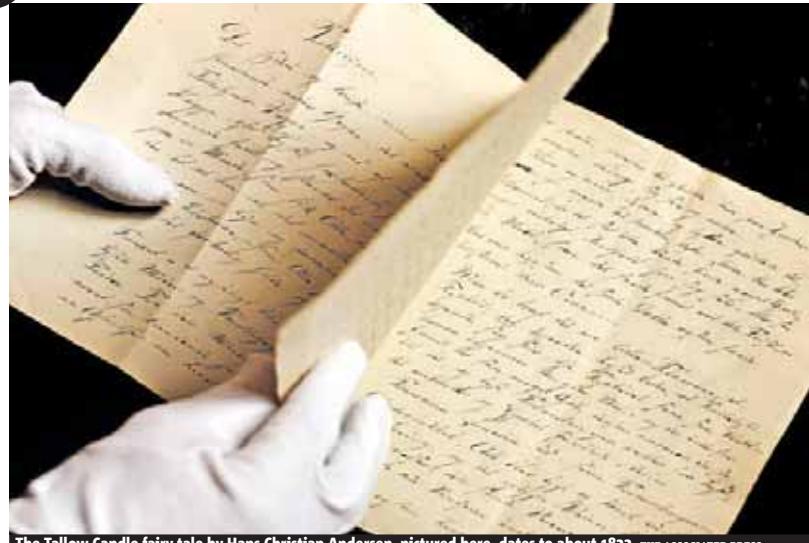
For years, the sombre fairy tale about a lonely candle who wanted to be lit dwelt in oblivion at the bottom of a box in Denmark's National Archives. Its recent discovery has sent ripples through the literary world because it is believed to be one of the first tales ever written by Hans Christian Andersen.

The famed Dane wrote nearly 160 fairy tales in his life, including classics such as The Ugly Duckling and The Little Mermaid. The tale of the candle may have been written when he was still a teen, experts say.

Retired historian Esben Brage said Thursday that he found the six-page text on Oct. 4 while searching through archive boxes that had belonged to wealthy families from Andersen's hometown of Odense in central Denmark.

The handwritten copy of the tale, entitled Tallow Candle and dedicated to a vicar's widow named Bunkeflok who had lived across from Andersen's home, had been left seemingly untouched at the bottom of one of the boxes.

"I was ecstatic," Brage said.



The Tallow Candle fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen, pictured here, dates to about 1823. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Expert opinion

"We see traces of Andersen's history in the text, the language and the themes in the manuscript.... It all fits with him, it all bears his fingerprint."

Ejnar Stig Askgaard, senior curator at the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Denmark.

"I had never imagined this."

The short story tells the tale of how a tallow candle seeks help from a tinder box to be able to ignite itself. A senior curator at the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Odense said the work is likely one of the author's earliest, written at the age of 18 — seven years before his of

ficial debut in 1830.

"I often get calls about stuff thought to have been of Andersen's hand. This time I was thrilled," said Ejnar Stig Askgaard, senior curator at the Hans Christian Andersen Museum.

It's "a very early attempt at prose," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tallow Candle

The Danish-language story Doedningen, from 1830, has long been considered Andersen's first fairy tale. That story was later re-written and published as The Traveling Companion, a grim tale about death.

- Andersen was born in 1805 in Odense, 170 km west of Copenhagen, to a cleaning lady and a shoemaker.
- He also wrote novels.

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Russia finally admits rebels might win the fight for Syria

Allies. Russia won't say whether it will change pro-Syria stance at UN Security Council

Syria's most powerful ally and protector, Russia, began positioning itself Thursday for the fall of President Bashar Assad, saying for the first time that rebels might overthrow him and preparing to evacuate thousands of Russian citizens from the country.

The head of NATO echoed the Russian assessment, saying the Syrian government is near collapse following a nearly two-year conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people and threatened to ignite the Middle East. Assad appears to be running out of options, with insurgents at the gates of the capital and

Syrian ties

- Russia has sold Syria billions of dollars worth of weapons
- They also strongly oppose a world order dominated by the United States, and they are keen to avoid a repeat of last year's NATO air campaign that led to the ouster of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, a former ally of Moscow.

the country fracturing under the weight of a devastating civil war.

"An opposition victory can't be excluded, unfortunately, but it's necessary to look at the facts: There is a trend for the government to progressively lose control over an increasing part of the territory," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, Moscow's Middle

East envoy, said during hearings at a Kremlin advisory body.

Still, Bogdanov gave no immediate signal that Russia would change its pro-Syria stance at the UN Security Council, where Moscow has shielded Damascus from world sanctions.

The U.S. commanded Russia "for finally waking up to the reality and acknowledging that the regime's days are numbered," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said.

"We call on Russia to work with us ... work with the various stakeholders in Syria to start moving towards a transitional structure, and we would like to have their help in doing that," she added.

Russia's acknowledgment that Assad could lose the fight is an embarrassing blow to the regime, which describes the rebels as terrorists sent from abroad with no popular support. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Syrian boys attend class in a city under control of the Free Syrian Army in Aleppo province, Syria. Russia says the current Syrian government is on the verge of collapse. **MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Rocket reality check

North Korea's missile progress doesn't scare U.S.

After 14 years of painstaking labour, North Korea finally has a rocket that can put a satellite in orbit. But that doesn't mean the reclusive country is close to having an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Experts say Pyongyang is years from even having a shot at developing reliable missiles.

that could bombard the American mainland and other distant targets, though it did gain attention and the outrage of world leaders Wednesday with its first successful launch of a three-stage, long-range rocket.

A missile program is built on decades of systematic, intricate testing, something extremely difficult for economically struggling Pyongyang, which faces guaranteed sanctions and world disapproval each time it stages an expensive launch.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kremlin critic

Lawyer confirms tea-poisoned client was on U.K. spy agency's payroll

Alexander Litvinenko, the former Russian agent-turned-Kremlin critic, was a "registered and paid" agent working for Britain's foreign intelligence agency when he died after being mysteriously poisoned, a lawyer representing his widow told an official hearing Thursday.

Another lawyer said the U.K. has evidence the Russian government was behind Litvinenko's death.

The 43-year-old Russian died in November 2006 after drinking tea laced with the rare radioactive isotope polonium-210 at a London hotel. Six years later, British authorities are reopening investigations into the shocking circumstances of his death. On his deathbed, the former Russian FSB agent accused the Russian President Vladimir Putin of being behind his killing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chavez's people speak frankly about surgery complications

Cancer treatment.

Venezuelan supporters pray for their leader's health during cancer treatment in Cuba

Chavismo after Chavez

One-man rule has been the glue that has held together Chavez's socialist movement.

- He hadn't groomed any clear successor until he announced over the weekend that if cancer cuts short his presidency he wants his vice-president, Nicolas Maduro, to take over.

- But some Venezuelans say battles over power may already be brewing within the president's "Chavismo" movement.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez suffered bleeding during his cancer surgery in Cuba that required "corrective measures" to stanch the flow, his government said Thursday.

But in the latest of a series of unusually frank reports about the president's delicate condition, Information Minister Ernesto Villegas also said Chavez has been making a "progressive and favourable" recovery after the complications from Tuesday's surgery.

"This recovery process, nevertheless, will require a prudent period of time as a consequence of the complexity of the surgery performed," Villegas added.

The government has begun providing regular updates on the president's recovery after the six-hour surgery in what appears to be a slight easing of the secrecy.

that has surrounded Chavez's medical treatment since he fell ill last year.

The latest details about Chavez's health came as supporters held church services to pray for him and as Venezuelans increasingly acknowledged that their country might be on the verge of political change if the leftist leader cannot be sworn in for his fourth term early next year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Basking in victory's afterglow

Indian army soldiers perform Mallakhamb, traditional Indian gymnastics, on a vertical wooden pole during a rehearsal for Victory Day celebrations in Mumbai on Thursday. The Indian Army celebrates Victory Day on Dec. 16 to commemorate its military victory over Pakistan in 1971. RAJANISH KAKADE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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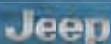


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Alleged plot to kill Bieber foiled at Canadian border

Wrong turn. Police say alleged would-be assassins arrived at the border by mistake, were arrested, then betrayed

A plot to kill Justin Bieber, allegedly masterminded by a 45-year-old prisoner obsessed with the young star, was derailed when the accused would-be assassins accidentally ended up at the Canadian border, according to court documents.

Dana Martin, serving two life sentences in a New Mexico prison for the killing of a 15-year-old girl, told police he had hatched the scheme after Bieber never returned messages he sent to the singer.

Police recounted in an affidavit that Martin, who has a tattoo of Bieber on his leg, told them the perceived slight was part of what led him to dream up the alleged murder plot.

"In the end, what Mr. Martin stated he was seeking was

a measure of notoriety," police wrote in the affidavit.

Bieber was not the only target in the alleged conspiracy — police allege two men Martin hired were also told to kill Bieber's bodyguard and two people unconnected to the star.

The men Martin allegedly had carrying out his plot were to use pruning shears to cut off the testicles of the first two victims in Vermont and kill them, then travel to New York, kill the bodyguard and abduct and kill Bieber, Martin told police.

There are no details in the affidavit of how the men, a recently released ex-con and his nephew, were to carry out the murder of one of the biggest stars in the world.

But Martin said he drew Mark Staake, 41, into his plot when they met in prison this year by telling Staake that he had access to money, a hideout and had gang connections in New York.

Staake brought his 23-year-old nephew, Tanner Ruane,



Dana Martin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mark Staake
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Tanner Ruane
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

into the scheme, Martin told investigators.

Staake was released on probation at the end of October and started to track Bieber's whereabouts, Martin said. The murder was to take place in New York at the end of November, according to the affidavit, when Bieber was in the city for a concert.

The uncle and nephew team arrived in Vermont on Nov. 19 but realized on the highway they were headed to the Canadian border, according to the affidavit. They missed the last exit before the border and turned around to join the cars entering the

Highgate Springs, Vt., point of entry, police said.

The U.S. border agent found Staake had an outstanding probation violation warrant from New Mexico, and he was arrested.

Martin and Ruane spoke on the phone later that day, and when Ruane told Martin that Staake had been arrested, Martin called off the plot. In the phone call, which was recorded by authorities, Ruane expressed disappointment at Martin's decision, saying they had found one of the first two victims' homes and had brought a pair of hedge clippers for the castrations.

Staake and Ruane were arrested on charges of two counts each of conspiracy to commit murder and two counts each of conspiracy to commit aggravated battery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Royal hoax.
Details emerge on nurse's death

A nurse was found hanging in her room three days after she had been duped by a hoax call from Australian DJs about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge, a U.K. inquest was told Thursday. The case is being treated as an apparent suicide.

Coroner's officer Lynda Martindill said nurse Jacintha Saldanha was discovered hanging by a scarf from a wardrobe in her nurses' quarters Friday by a colleague and a member of security staff at London's King Edward VII Hospital.

Police detective chief inspector James Harman said Saldanha, 46, also had injuries to her wrists.

He told the inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court that two notes were found at the scene and another was found among Saldanha's belongings. He said there were no suspicious circumstances involved.

Harman said detectives are investigating what led to her death, and would be contacting police in the Australian state of New South Wales to collect "relevant evidence."

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McAfee back in the U.S. with no money or home

Deported. Anti-virus mogul getting by on borrowed cash while he waits for girlfriends to arrive in Miami

Anti-virus-software founder John McAfee said Thursday that U.S. authorities have made no efforts to question him since he arrived in Miami after weeks of evading Belizean authorities who want to ask him about the death of his neighbour.

McAfee was deported from Guatemala after sneaking in illegally from Belize, where police want to question him in connection with the death of a U.S. expatriate who lived near him on an island off Belize's coast.

U.S. officials said there was no active arrest warrant for McAfee that would justify taking him into custody.



John McAfee faces the media upon arriving in Miami on Thursday.

CM GUERRERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He said he was put on a plane to Miami where he will stay until his two girlfriends, 20-year-old Belizean Samantha Vanegas and a woman he called "Amy," can join him.

The 67-year-old British

native said he has no money and no home in the U.S. and has been getting by on cash that a Canadian friend sent him until his property manager comes to Miami with his cash and credit cards.

If he's reunited with the women, he said he doesn't know where he'll live or how he'll rebuild his life.

Over the weekend, he said he would be happy to go to England, noting he has dual citizenship.

McAfee bristled as reporters repeatedly asked him why he won't answer questions from officials in Belize, denying he was under investigation.

He stressed that he was afraid to answer questions because dozens of officials there stormed his property, killed his dogs, handcuffed him for hours and tried to extort money.

He has not been charged with a crime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



High tides in Sunset Beach

A man looks at the overflowed Pacific Coast Highway in the Sunset Beach area of Huntington Beach, Calif., on Thursday. Astronomical high tides have caused minor street flooding in some low-lying areas along the Southern California coast. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Auction

Botched-fresco artist goes eBay

The 80-year-old Spanish artist who became famous because of her botched restoration of a Christ fresco in a small-town church is auctioning one of her works on eBay for charity.

Celia Gimenez's oil painting Las Bodegas de Borja (Borja's Wine Cellar) was fetching \$808 US Thursday, doubling its starting price after 31 bids. The sale closes Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vandal case

Man jailed for defacing art

A Polish man who defaced a Mark Rothko painting in London's Tate Modern gallery with black ink to promote an obscure artistic creed was sentenced Thursday to two years in jail.

Wlodzimierz Umaniec, also known as Vladimir Umanets, was arrested after visitors discovered a scrawl across the bottom of Rothko's Black on Maroon on Oct. 7.

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Deal. Canada, U.S. sign visa treaty to share biometric info by 2014

Immigration.

Privacy commissioner's office says info may endanger applicants from places with bad human-rights records

Canada will soon begin sharing biometric information and other data about visa applicants with the United States — which then may provide it to third countries under a newly signed treaty.

It means the fingerprints or photo of someone who hopes to visit, study or work in Canada could be passed to Washington, which in turn might share them with another country to help verify the person's identity. However, Canada would have to agree to the disclosure and could place restrictions or conditions on how the information is shared, says the treaty released Thursday.

The biometric sharing initiative is part of a continental perimeter security deal reached last year.

Under the agreement, bio-

29 countries, 1 territory

The sharing of biometric information involves visa applicants to Canada from:

- Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Vietnam and Yemen.

graphic information will be shared by 2013. Biometric information, such as photos and fingerprints of select visa applicants, will be shared by 2014.

At a ceremony to sign the agreement, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney and U.S. ambassador David Jacobson stressed that the information would be handled with due regard for privacy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



All that glitter is really gold

Queen Elizabeth II tours the gold vault during her visit to the Bank of England in London on Thursday. Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney has been named the future governor of the Bank of England starting next July. EDDIE MULHOLLAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/POOL

C-377. Bill forcing unions to open books constitutional: Tory MP

With his private member's bill on union finances now before the Senate, Conservative MP Russ Hiebert says he's confident it can withstand a constitutional challenge.

But labour groups say they're ready for a court fight over the legislation, which they predict could cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.

Bill C-377 was passed by the House of Commons on Wednesday after it was amended to remove provisions dealing with pensions.

Almost as soon as the bill left the House, labour groups began an intense lobbying campaign to persuade senators to scrap it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What is Bill C-377?

The bill, once passed into law, would force unions to publicly disclose how they spend the dues they collect.

- It would amend the Income Tax Act to require unions to provide detailed annual financial filings to the Canada Revenue Agency, which would then make the info public.

- Some personal information would be withheld for privacy reasons.

STOP HIV/AIDS

Hospital finds 30 cases of HIV in pilot project

A pilot project at Vancouver hospitals that tests patients for HIV on admission has found more than 30 cases in its first year. Under the

program launched in October of 2011, four area hospitals began offering HIV tests to patients when other blood tests are ordered.

The provincial government recently announced it will be expanding the pilot project to the rest of the province next year as part of a plan called STOP HIV/AIDS.

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Feds trumpet victims' rights in wake of Turcotte release

Planned legislation.

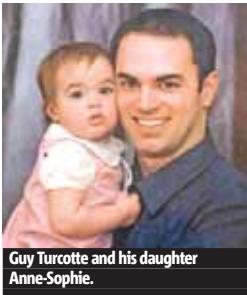
Federal government speaks out against release of Quebec doctor convicted of killing his two young children

The federal government sprang to the microphone Thursday to denounce the release of a Quebec doctor who killed his two children and trumpet long-promised new rules for those found not criminally responsible.

Guy Turcotte — convicted in the 2009 stabbing deaths of his three-year-old daughter and five-year-old son, but found not criminally responsible — was freed Wednesday after just 46 months under psychiatric care.

The Harper government, which rarely misses the opportunity to burnish its tough-on-crime armour, seized on the chance to repeat its promise to tighten up the rules on such releases in the name of victims' rights.

Turcotte's release infuri-



Guy Turcotte and his daughter Anne-Sophie.

MONTREAL LA PRESSE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thursday.
"Isabelle Gaston deserves

better than this. The system has failed her."

Moore repeated the government's plan for legislation to deal with high-risk offenders found not criminally responsible for their actions on account of a mental disorder who may pose a threat to public safety if released.

The new law may require longer waits between formal reviews of the status of people held in psychiatric hospitals after being found not criminally responsible, he suggested.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Set ablaze. B.C. teen severely burned in deliberate attack: RCMP

The RCMP say one of the men charged with setting a sleeping teenager on fire at a house party in Kelowna, B.C., may have staged similar attacks in the past.

RCMP Const. Kris Clark said the 18-year-old victim was drunk when he fell asleep on the kitchen floor at the home during the early morning hours of Dec. 8.

The officer said the suspect allegedly poured a liquid on the back of the victim and then lit a match, while another suspect recorded the resulting fire on video.

Clark said the teen suf-

fered major burns to most of his back but no one who was present in the home at the time told police about the incident, and the RCMP didn't become aware of what happened until about 12 hours later.

"We received a report, basically from the hospital, that an 18-year-old man was receiving treatment for second- and third-degree burns after being intentionally being set on fire," he said.

Two Kelowna men have been charged with aggravated assault and remain in custody.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CKFR

DEC 14 & 15

ON DASHER ON DANCER ON PRANCER ON VIXEN
ON COMET ON CUPID ON DONNER ON BLITZEN
ON STEPHEN ON BRUCE ON JEFFREY ON TERRY
ON RONALD ON PAUL ON BRIAN ON JOHNATHAN!

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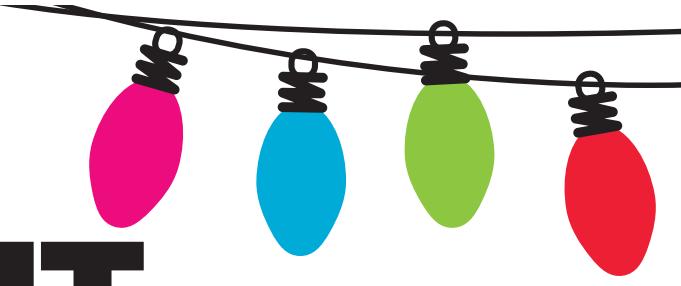
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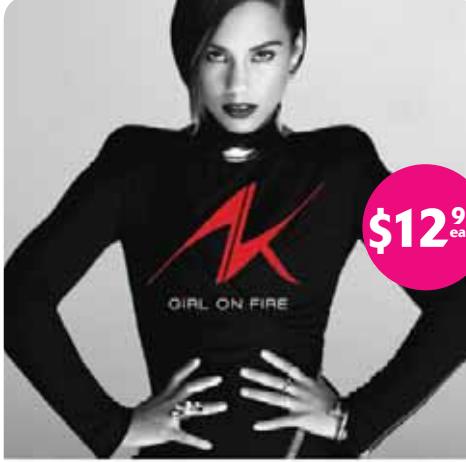


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Google hides porn under cyber mattress

Filtering furor. Change to SafeSearch settings means fewer saucy pics turn up in results

In a move that polarized online opinion, Google introduced a new algorithm Thursday that will produce fewer pornographic images on its image search.

The change took effect in the U.S. only, and hasn't yet been implemented in Canada.

Twitter was abuzz with the change, which seems to affect the U.K., U.S. and Canada, but not some European countries like Germany.

"Is Google Censoring Porn on Image Search, or Is Search Broken?", tweeted @Philbo as news of the new filter broke Thursday morning.

Most of the early tweets expressed dismay in what was perceived to be increased censorship.

"Don't be evil, Google? Then why does your new Google Images algorithm make it harder to find porn?", tweeted @omar_aok.

But some users saw an up-

Market Minute

 DOLLAR	101.54¢ (-0.01¢)
 TSX	12,289.17 (-63.92)
 OIL	\$85.89 US (-88¢)
 GOLD	\$1,696.80 US (-\$21.10)

Natural gas: \$3.35 (-4¢)
Dow Jones: 13,170.72 (-74.73)

Can you give us examples?

"If you're looking for adult content, you can find it without having to change the default setting — you just may need to be more explicit in your query..."

Google statement

tent isn't being censored, just that a user will have to search for it specifically.

"We use algorithms to select the most relevant results for a given query. If you're looking for adult content, you can find it without having to change the default setting — you just may need to be more explicit in your query if your search terms are potentially ambiguous," the statement read.

"No filter is 100 per cent accurate, but SafeSearch should help you avoid most of this type of material," writes Google on its help site.

Twitter user @WillieClark solemnly declared Thursday "The day the porn died."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Take that, Apple — Google Maps makes a return

The new Google Maps application is shown in New York on Thursday. The world's most popular online mapping system has returned with the release of the Google Maps iPhone app. The release comes nearly three months after Apple Inc. replaced Google Maps — which was the iPhone's built-in navigation system — with its own map software. But Apple's maps proved to be far inferior, and the product's shoddiness prompted Apple CEO Tim Cook to issue a rare public apology. A Google Maps iPad app is in the works, but for now, iPad owners can use the maps in iPhone mode. That won't be the best experience, but still may be better than Apple's maps on the iPad. KARLY DOMB SADOF/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa

Supreme Court sides with cable, satellite firms on fee system

The CRTC does not have the power to make cable providers pay broadcasters for carrying their TV signals, according to a decision handed down Thursday by the Supreme

Court of Canada that one analyst said should be a win for consumers.

While the decision was hailed by one major cable company as a step forward for customers, broadcasters said the very survival of local TV is at stake.

The Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that setting up such a system is not within the scope of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommuni-

cations Commission.

Telecom analyst Troy Crandall said it's the status quo for consumers, who won't have to bear any costs of a fee-for-carriage system.

"It looks like a win for consumers right now because it's not going to have an immediate impact," said Crandall of MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier in Montreal.

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Research in Motion

U.S. customs agency to launch BB10 pilot program

Research In Motion says the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency will launch a pilot program with its smartphones using the new operating system BlackBerry10, likely in January.

However, RIM has lost several other U.S. departments and agencies as clients. BlackBerry smartphones were recently dropped by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in favour of the new iPhone 5, with "performance issues" cited as the reason.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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StatsCan. Household debt hits new high

Canadians are more in hock today than ever before, Statistics Canada said Thursday in releasing fresh data on household debt.

The new report shows household debt to annual disposable income reached a new high at 164.6 per cent, from 163.3 per cent the previous quarter.

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney has named rising household debt a key risk to the Canadian economy, but noted this week he was encouraged that credit growth appeared to be slowing.

Still, Carney has also said he expects the debt-to-income ratio to keep rising over the next couple of years. That is in part because of a lag in time between purchase decisions — such as a new home — and when the debt gets registered.

In the July-September period, households borrowed \$27.3 billion, \$18.4 billion of that in mortgages, while consumer credit levels increased by \$7 billion to \$474 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strong loonie, stable economy boost holiday travel plans

New survey. Canadians will spend average of \$563 on seasonal trips

It looks like Santa won't be the only one on the move this holiday season.

The Bank of Montreal says a strong loonie and a relatively stable economy are fuelling a desire by many Canadians to get away over the Christmas-New Year's period.

According to the bank's 2012 Holiday Travel Outlook released Thursday, some 60 per cent of Canadians plan to travel over the holidays, spending an average of \$563 apiece on their trips.

The survey found that while some 39 per cent planned to travel within their home province, almost one in five, or 19 per cent, were looking to go abroad.

The most popular destination outside of Canada was the United States, with 13 per cent of Canadians heading south of the border. Some three per cent chose Mexico as their preferred destination while eight per cent



Santa's already got his holiday travel arrangements in hand. A new poll found 60 per cent of Canadians also plan to travel over the Christmas-New Year's period. TOM TINGLE/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

collectively chose other destinations and 12 per cent said they would be going to other provinces besides their own.

Meanwhile, the survey found that those in Atlantic Canada were the most likely to travel over the holidays (80 per cent), while those in Quebec were the least likely (41 per cent).

To help fund travel plans,

By the numbers

74%

Travellers will be younger this holiday season, with 74 per cent of Canadians under 30 planning to travel compared with 42 per cent of those 65 and over.

the report found that Canadians' use of reward points is

on the rise. Two out of 10 Canadians (21 per cent) planned to travel on reward points this year, up seven per cent over last year.

BMO said the results were from an online survey conducted by Pollara between Oct. 11 and Oct. 16 with a random sample of 1,000 Canadians 18 years of age and over.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE LIST
Mike Benham
metronews.ca

1 **Pimpin' primate.** The week's top story involves a stylishly dressed monkey wandering cluelessly near a store, and eventually taken to live with a baboon. Wasn't that the premise for Jersey Shore?

2 **Call Me Maybe.** The robocall challenge went before Federal Court this week. Voters questioned the integrity of the election process, and political scientist Peter Russell said, "Canadian citizens don't want to be lied to in robocalls." He's right. Canadians are accustomed to politicians who lie to us in person, dammit!

3 **Diminishing returns.** Imagine waiting hours at a restaurant for a steak, and then being given two of them minutes before they close. You now have to consume massive quantities in a hurry, and while the first two bites are satisfying, the whole thing just ends up making you sick. Welcome to your condensed NHL season.

4 **Good for the goose.** The Canadian dollar rose slightly this week while American currency weakened when it was announced that the U.S. Federal Reserve would be printing additional money to buy up more bonds. I had a friend who used to do that but I haven't seen him in years.

5 **Single mother.** An 11-year-old female polar bear at the Toronto Zoo, who last year rejected three of her own cubs, gave birth to three more on Dec. 6. One died shortly after birth, and the others died on Sunday. The zoo is unclear about how these last two died, and they are investigating. Now, I'm no social worker, but maybe she's just not ready for motherhood?

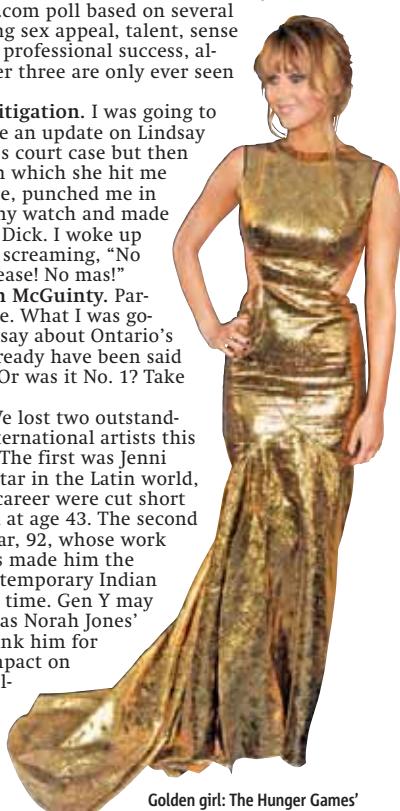
6 **Ask Men?** Jennifer Lawrence, the 22-year-old star of The Hunger Games, has been named the "most desirable woman" of the year in an annual AskMen.com poll based on several criteria including sex appeal, talent, sense of humour, and professional success, although the latter three are only ever seen by women.

7 **Li-Lo litigation.** I was going to provide an update on Lindsay Lohan's court case but then I had a dream in which she hit me with her Porsche, punched me in the face, stole my watch and made me watch Liz & Dick. I woke up in a cold sweat, screaming, "No mas Lindsay! Please! No mas!"

8 **Dalton McGuinty.** Pardon me. What I was going to say about Ontario's premier may already have been said in No. 2 above. Or was it No. 1? Take your pick.

9 **RIP.** We lost two outstanding international artists this week. The first was Jenni Rivera, a huge star in the Latin world, whose life and career were cut short in a plane crash at age 43. The second was Ravi Shankar, 92, whose work with the Beatles made him the best-known contemporary Indian musician of our time. Gen Y may only know him as Norah Jones' dad (and we thank him for that), but his impact on music is unparalleled in many ways. Thankfully, both of these artists left their music for us to cherish. Rock 'n' roll heaven awaits.

Happy Holidays to all.



Golden girl: The Hunger Games' Jennifer Lawrence was named AskMen.com's 'most desirable woman' of the year. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Blooming cold in the Arctic



MATTHIAS WIETZ/IGERT/NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

In the garden of freezin'

Q&A

Chilly air creates a sea of flowers at the North Pole

Some (flowers) like it hot, but others like these in the North Pole prefer it very cold. Frost flowers, a natural phenomenon where frost grows amid an extremely cold atmosphere on top of warmer water, form unusual floral structures that host microorganisms. Oceanographer Jeff Bowman spoke to Metro about his research.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Like frost, but in 3-D

How are these frost flowers formed?

They grow on new ice with open cracks. The extremely cold air (below -8 C) becomes saturated, and frost starts to form on the ice's imperfections. Then feathery structures begin to grow out of the cracks, and incorporate marine salt and micro-organisms like algae. They are no different to frost formations, but only in 3-D.

What is the significance of these ethereal structures?



Jeff Bowman at work in the Arctic Ocean. MATTHIAS WIETZ/IGERT/NSF

space — and thus make the region colder. In addition, frost flowers can potentially release aerosols, which can lead to ozone depletion. But so far this is nothing more than speculation.

What was your first reaction when you saw these?

They are stunning and so ubiquitous, you can see them for kilometres. They form very abruptly, within only a few hours. I recall one expedition to the North Pole: when the fog cleared the entire icescape was covered as far as the eye could see by these bizarre yet beautiful shapes.

Metropolitan Panel Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

NASA is planning to send another rover to Mars. What should be its mission?

Mission Type	Percentage
BE A PORTAL FOR TELEPORTING TO THE RED PLANET	50%
BOND WITH THE OTHER TWO ROVERS AND STAGE A ROBOT TAKEOVER	50%
BUILD A BUNKER FOR HUMANS	0%



@InFlight_Safety:

If we booked a Halifax show in early March at The Marquee would you guys attend? #ideatime

@Max_McIver:

Well, I've seen it all, one of Halifax's subs is moving under its own power...

@paige_farah:

1 bike ride down Robie during the day, fighting with buses, was

an ensuring reminder as to exactly why Agricola is the best street in Halifax

@jerryleewilson:

I saw a bumper sticker in #Halifax this morning that said "Give Turtles A Break" ... still trying to figure it out

@spcushing:

Thanks to O'Regan's for the \$1million gift for the new #Halifax Central Library!



The Hobbit is a coming-of-age story for Bilbo Baggins. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



High-def hobbits?

Too much tech. The tale of the beginning of Lord of the Rings is overshadowed by 48 frames per second

Richard: Ned, as much as the story and performances, people will be talking about the presentation of the movie. Shot and projected at 48 frames a second — twice the industry standard — the picture is so vivid, so pristine, it doesn't really look like a movie. Combine that with the 3D and it's like watching mega high-definition. Every goblin wart and troll blemish is distinct enough to give dermatologists everywhere nightmares. What did you think of the mega-super-hi-definition look?

Ned: I have to say, the 48 frames per second was a problem for me. It often looked

somewhere between a super-high definition 1980s BBC miniseries and a video game, and it just felt utterly un-cinematic. Saying that it doesn't really look like a movie hits the nail on the head. Christopher Nolan has harped on in the past about film having a "warmth" that video can't replicate, and I think I see what he means here. But the biggest crime, I think, is that the sweeping shots of the New Zealand landscape looked fake.

RC: Perhaps it's like the difference between vinyl or CD. I prefer the warm sound of old-school vinyl to the hard digital preproduction of CD. The pops and skips are part of the experience, just as film blur and grain are a part of watching 35 mm projected on the big screen. Having said that, Gollum is awesome at 48 frames a second. The extended scene (for the record, most of the scenes in the film

could be called extended), in which Bilbo and Gollum meet and trade riddles is one of the highlights of the film thanks to Serkis' astounding motion capture performance.

NE: That scene is the true highlight of the film, and it coincidentally is where Martin Freeman, as the younger Bilbo, really shines as well. But even with this standout, Peter Jackson and company manage to spoil it (for me at least) by overdoing Gollum's last line to beat the viewer over the head with another reminder that all this leads to the Lord of the Rings. It's a bad habit running through the film that grows tedious. Elijah Wood's cameo is particularly clumsy in this regard, with him basically describing what he's going to do in his first scene in Fellowship of the Ring and then running off to do it.

RC: It may be clumsy, but I think fans of the series will

Synopsis

The prequel to the immensely popular Lord of the Rings films is a coming-of-age story for Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), a stay-at-home hobbit from Bag End, in Hobbiton in the Shire. He's content with his quiet life until Gandalf (Ian McKellen), a wizard, recruits him to help a group of 13 dwarves in their quest to reclaim their former home, the Lonely Mountain, and its treasure from the dragon Smaug.

• Richard: ••••

• Ned: ••••

revel at the chance of revisiting the characters!

NE: Well, they'll have plenty of chances. If you like this one, the good news is it's just the first of three movies.

Now I know why
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Drama



Hitchcock

Director: Sacha Gervasi

Stars: Anthony Hopkins, Helen Mirren, Scarlett Johansson

• • • •

Somewhere between Toby Jones' portrayal in HBO's dour *The Girl* and Anthony Hopkins' turn in *Hitchcock* are the real facts. Certainly much of *Hitchcock* — loosely based on Stephen Rebello's book *The Making of Psycho* — is a fairy tale, whitewashing the grimmer side of the filmmaking process in favour of a lighthearted peek at the love affair between Hitch and his wife/partner Alma (Helen Mirren) during the making of his notorious work. Hopkins and Mirren are a joy to watch, but compared to the darker *The Girl*, *Hitchcock* feels trite. **CHRIS ALEXANDER**

Drama



Deadfall

Director: Martin Donovan

Stars: Eric Bana, Olivia Wilde

• • • •

About the most interesting aspect of *Deadfall* is that it was apparently filmed in a blizzard. Oscar-winning filmmaker Stefan Ruzowitzky (*The Counterfeitors*) may have visual skill but this derivative, contrived thriller about two sibling thieves (Bana, Wilde) that split up in snowbound Michigan only to reunite at a doomed Thanksgiving dinner complete with hostages is so dour, I'd assumed it was farce if every character weren't so utterly unaffected.

STEVE GOW

What's next in the Broadway to big screen adaptations?

Speculation. Filmmakers take note — there's plenty of material to be found on the stage. Here are some musicals we'd like to see hit the multiplex

STEVE

GOW

scene@metronews.ca

With *Les Misérables* hitting theatres Christmas Day, it'll mark just the latest Broadway hit to be brought to the big-screen. While fans must wait a little longer before checking out the adaptation, we wanted to examine other Broadway classics that have yet to be converted into cinematic gold.

The Book of Mormon

Conceived by funnymen Trey Parker and Matt Stone, *The Book of Mormon* isn't just the 2011 Tony Award champion; it's an unlikely hit musical about missionaries in war-torn Uganda that mixes satire and song the way only the creators



There are tentative plans for a film version of *The Book of Mormon*. HANDOUT

of TV's *South Park* can do.

Status: Although the comic duo announced eventual plans for a film version, Parker admitted they're in no rush, telling *Movieline*, "We'd have to really rethink it."

Avenue Q

Debuting from an experimental play in 2003, this Sesame-

Street-for-adults show featuring politically-incorrect (and sometimes nude!) puppets struggling in Manhattan could amp it up even more for the big screen.

Status: There have been rumours but no serious plans are in the works for a big-screen version. May I suggest someone call Jason Segel?

Jersey Boys

This musical biography may have debuted in San Diego but the story of 1960s singing group the Four Seasons has become one of Broadway's biggest box-office draws.

Status: Floating around Hollywood for years, *Jersey Boys* was to begin production in January (with *Iron Man*'s Jon Favreau directing) until Warner Brothers' recently yanked the project. And so we wait.

Wicked

One of Broadway's longest running shows, *Wicked* visits the story of the Wizard of Oz from the witches' point of view. Having repeatedly broken box-office records since its 2003 debut, Tinseltown has taken notice.

Status: Under the direction of Oscar-nominated filmmaker Stephen Daldry (Billy Elliot), *Wicked* is likely to be the next movie musical — with a tentative release date set for 2014.



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Barbra Streisand lets Metro in on a few little secrets about her career

The Guilt Trip.

Multi-talented entertainer dishes about the film industry, Seth Rogen and getting scripts

 **NED EHRBAR**
Metro World News in Hollywood

Barbra Streisand is many things — an acclaimed actress, singer, director and writer, political activist and philanthropist — but most of all she's a woman not afraid to speak her mind. So what wisdom did Streisand have to impart while promoting the *Guilt Trip*, her first starring role in a movie since the *Miracle on 34th Street* in 1996?

The secret to her success is staying home

"I don't make that many movies and I don't make that many appearances," she



Barbra Streisand says she wasn't able to find out any dirt about Seth Rogen before they started working together. HANDOUT

says. "That's it. Less is more. And maybe that keeps a little mystery or something. I like to stay home a lot."

She doesn't like where the film industry has been going

"It's not the same as when I last made a film. They're not interested in love stories or any movie that's over \$15 million. But it could be \$100 million, that's OK. Two hundred million is OK to

lose," she says with a laugh. "But movies that I'm used to making or liking, that draw me, they're movies that cost \$18 million, \$20 million, and they're not interested in those movies. It's a different

time. I don't like it as much."

She doesn't actually get sent that many scripts to consider

"I don't. You see, everybody gets like that. 'She must get

so many scripts, why would I send it to her? She'll never get a chance to read it,'" Streisand laments. "Meanwhile I'll go, 'Where are the scripts?'"

Getting her to do *The Guilt Trip* required an actual guilt trip from director Anne Fletcher

"I remember ... I said to Anne, 'Would you make the movie without me?' And she said no," Streisand recalls. "I felt bad, guilty. I said, 'Oh no, she's not going to have this job.'"

While co-star Seth Rogen asked around about what working with Streisand would be like, she wasn't able to do any similar research.

"Seth, it turns out, sussed me out," she says. "He called people from the *Focker* movies. I didn't know who to call. I don't know any of those people from his movies, so what was I going to do?" she adds.

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 14 TO THURS., DEC. 20. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Halifax

Bayers Lake 190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG), Fri-Thu 1:45-9:15

Imax 190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake

Deadfall (STC), Fri-Wed 12:05-3:6:30-9, Thu 11:05-2:5:30-8

Flight (14), Fri-Wed 9:20, Thu 8:20
The Guilt Trip (STC), Wed 1:30-4:25-7:10-9:45, Thu 12:30-3:25-6:10-8:45

Hitchcock (PG), Fri-Wed 12:40-3:20-6:50-9:25, Thu 11:40-2:20-5:50-8:25

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG), Fri-Wed 2:6:15-10, Thu 12:50-6:15-6:30

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG), Fri 12:12-15-12:30-3:45-4:15-7:30-8, Sat 12:30-3:45-4:45-7:30-7:45-8, Sun-Wed 12:15-12:30-3:45-4:45-7:30-9:25, Thu 11:11-15-11:30-2:45-3-3:15-6:50-7:30-8

Life of Pi (PG), Fri-Wed 12:25-4:05-6:55-9:45, Thu 11:25-3:05-5:55-8:45

Life of Pi 3D (PG), Fri-Tue 4:20-10:05

Monsters, Inc. 3D (G), Wed 12:45-3:05-6:30-9:05, Thu 11:45-2:05-5:30-8:05

Playing for Keeps (PG), Fri-Wed 12:35-3:25-6:40-9:20, Thu 11:35-2:25-5:40-8:20

Red Dawn (PG), Fri-Wed 12:20-3:15-7:9:40, Thu 11:20-2:15

Rise of the Guardians (G), Fri-Wed 1:05-3:30-7:15-9:30, Thu 12:05-2:30

Rise of the Guardians 3D (G), Fri-Tue 1:25-7:25

Silver Linings Playbook (14) Fri-Wed 12:10-3:10-6:35-9:35, Thu 11:10-2:10-5:35-8:35

Skyfall (14), Fri-Tue 1:15-1:45-4:30-4:55-7:50-9:10, Wed 1:15-4:30-7:50, Thu 12:15-3:30-6:50

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14), Fri-Wed 12:55-3:55-7:05-9:50, Thu 11:55-2:50-6:05-8:50

Wreck-It Ralph (PG), Fri-Wed 1:20-4:10-6:45, Thu 12:20-3:10-5:45

Oxford Theatre 6408 Quinpool Rd.

Lincoln (PG) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat 3:6:30-9:40 Sun 3:45-7:10:10 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:40 White Christmas (G) Sun 1

Park Lane

Anna Karenina (PG) Fri 3:15-7:9:50 Sat 6:15-9:50 Sun 12:20-3:10-7:9:50 Mon-Thu 3:15-7:9:50 Cloudburst (STC) Fri 3:25-7:10-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:25-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu

3:25-7:10-9:35
The Guilt Trip (STC) Wed-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:25
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG), Fri 5-9, Sat-Sun 1:15-5-9, Mon-Thu 5-9
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG), Fri 2:45-4:6-20-7:30-9:30, Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45-4:6-20-7:30-9:30, Mon-Thu 2:45-4:6-20-7:30-9:30
Life of Pi (PG) Fri 3:10-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 3:10-6:30
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 10 Sat-Sun 3:10-10 Mon-Thu 10
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Live (STC) Sat 1:55
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri 3:40-6:50-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:30-5:30-6:50-9:25 Mon-Tue 3:40-6:50-9:25
Skyfall (14) Fri 3:30-6:40-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:25-3:30-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:45

Lower Sackville

Lower Sackville 760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza

The Guilt Trip (STC), Wed-Thu 6:45-9:25
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG), Fri 7, Sat-Sun 3:30-7, Mon-Thu 7
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG), Fri 7:30, Sat-Sun 3:30-7, Mon-Thu 7:30
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G), Wed-Thu 6:35-9
Playing for Keeps (PG), Fri 6:50-9:30, Sat-Sun 4:05-6:50-9:30, Mon-Tue 6:50-9:30, Wed-Thu 9:35
Rise of the Guardians (G), Fri 7:10, Sat-Sun 3:25-7:10, Mon-Thu 7:10
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G), Fri 9:10, Wed-Thu 9:10
Skyfall (14), Fri 6:30-9, Sat-Sun 3:15-6:30-9, Mon-Thu 6:30-9
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14), Fri 6:40-9:20, Sat-Sun 4:40-9:20, Mon-Tue 6:40-9:20, Wed-Thu 6:55
Wreck-It Ralph (PG), Fri 6:35-9:25, Sat-Sun 3:45-6:35-9:25, Mon-Tue 6:35-9:25

Dartmouth

Dartmouth Crossing 145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing

The Guilt Trip (STC), Wed-Thu 12:30-6:50-10:20
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG), Fri-Thu 2:30-7:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG), Fri-Thu 12:15-12:45-2:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-8:15-8:45
Life of Pi (PG), Fri-Thu 12:30

Life of Pi 3D (PG), Fri-Thu 3:35-6:40-9:45
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G), Wed-Thu 1:05-3:45-6:30-9:10
Playing for Keeps (PG), Fri 12:40-3:15-6:55-10:25, Sat-Sun 12:40-3:15-6:55-10:25, Wed-Thu 12:40-3:15-6:55-9:40
Red Dawn (PG), Fri-Tue 10:10
Rise of the Guardians (G), Fri-Thu 12:50-4:7-9:30
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G), Fri-Mon 1:30-6:20-9, Tue 3:30-6:20-9, Wed-Thu 1:30-6:20-9
Skyfall (14) Digital, Fri 10 Sat-Sun 2:30-8, Mon-Thu 8
Life of Pi (PG) Digital, Fri-Tue 6:35-9
Life of Pi 3D (PG), Fri 9:10, Sat-Sun 2:40-9:10, Mon-Tue 9:10
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G), Wed-Thu 6:35-9
Playing for Keeps (PG) Digital, Fri 6:45-9:30 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:35-6:45-9:30

Wreck-It Ralph (PG), Fri-Tue 1:05-3:45-6:30-9:20
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Digital, Fri 7 Digital, Sat-Sun 3:7 Digital, Mon-Thu 7:10-9:10
Skyfall (14) Digital, Fri 6:30-9:15 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:55-6:30-9:15 Digital, Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG), Fri 8, Sat-Sun 2:30-8, Mon-Thu 8
Life of Pi (PG) Digital, Fri-Tue 6:35-9
Life of Pi 3D (PG), Fri 9:10, Sat-Sun 2:40-9:10, Mon-Tue 9:10
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G), Wed-Thu 6:35-9
Playing for Keeps (PG) Digital, Fri 6:45-9:30 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:35-6:45-9:30

Truro

20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Digital, Fri 7 Digital, Sat-Sun 3:7 Digital, Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (G), Fri 8 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:30-8, Mon-Thu 8:15-10:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14) Digital, Fri 6:40-9:25, Digital Sat-Sun 2:45-6:40-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:25
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Digital, Fri 9:10, Sat-Sun 2:30-8, Mon-Thu 8:15-10:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (G) Digital, Fri 10 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:30-8, Mon-Thu 8:15-10:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (G) Digital, Fri 10 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:30-8, Mon-Thu 8:15-10:15

(PG) Fri 7:30 Sat 3-7:30 Sun 3-7 Mon 7 Tue 7:30 Wed-Thu 7
Life of Pi (PG) Fri-Sat 9:15 Tue 9:15 Wed-Thu 7:20
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat 2:50-6:30 Sun 2:50-7:20 Mon 7:20 Tue 6:30
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Wed-Thu 7:15
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri 7:10-9:35 Sat 3:15-7:10-9:35 Sun 3:15-7:45 Mon 7:45 Tue 7:10-9:35
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sat 9:05 Tue 9:05 Wed 2:45-6:40 Sun 2:45-7:05 Mon 7:05 Tue 6:40 Wed-Thu 7:05
Skyfall (14) Fri 6:20-9:25 Sat 3:10-6:20-9:25 Sun 3:10-7:40 Mon 7:40 Tue 6:20-9:25 Wed-Thu 7:40
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri 7 Sat 2:30-7 Sun 2:30-7:30 Mon 7:30 Tue 7 Wed-Thu 7:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (G) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat 2:35-6:50-9:30 Sun 2:35-7:15 Mon 7:15 Tue 6:50-9:30

Bridgewater

Bridgewater, 349 Lahave St.

The Guilt Trip (STC) Wed-Thu 7:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri 7 Sat 2:30-7 Sun 2:30-7:30 Mon 7:30 Tue 7 Wed-Thu 7:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat 2:35-6:50-9:30 Sun 2:35-7:15 Mon 7:15 Tue 6:50-9:30

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The Hollywood Foreign Press shows its love for Honest Abe

Golden Globe noms.

Lincoln grabs seven nods, while in TV, Homeland and Downton Abbey come out as favourites

 **NED EHRBAR**
Metro World News in Hollywood

Steven Spielberg's Lincoln leads this year's Golden Globe Awards nominations, placing in seven categories including best drama, with nods for Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner as well as actors Daniel Day-Lewis, Tommy Lee Jones and Sally Field, and composer John Williams.

Other favourites for the Hollywood Foreign Press include Ben Affleck's Argo, Kathryn Bigelow's Zero Dark Thirty and Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained, all of which received best drama and best director nods, as well as other nominations.

On the television side, new series Nashville, Smash and the Newsroom earned accolades, while longtime awards favourite Mad Men failed to make the best television drama list for the first time. Critical favourites Homeland and Downton Abbey earned four and three nominations each, respectively, and are expected to be favourites when the awards are handed out.



Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*, starring Christoph Waltz and Jamie Foxx, grabbed a number of nominations. HANDOUT

Biggest surprises

The Hollywood Foreign Press clearly has a thing for Nicole Kidman, nominating the actress in both film and TV categories. Her nod for Lee Daniels' *The Paperboy* may be the most controversial this year, as the film was widely panned coming out of the Cannes Film Festival. Also a surprise? Multiple nominations for *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, an

early 2012 film with little to know awards campaign. Stars Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt earned acting nods while the film made the best musical or comedy list.

Biggest snubs

While Tom Hooper's presumed awards season juggernaut *Les Misérables* earned nods for best musical or comedy, plus best actor Hugh

Jackman and supporting actress Anne Hathaway, Hooper himself didn't make the best director list. And despite turning in great performances in multiple films, Matthew McConaughey came up empty handed at the HFPA. Other notable snubs include Robert DeNiro for *Silver Linings Playbook* — though best supporting actor is the tightest race this year —

and indie darling *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, which didn't receive a single nomination.

The 70th annual Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live January 13, hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, who are nominated against each other in the best actress in a television comedy category.

Some of the nominations

- Best motion picture — drama. Argo, Django Unchained, Life of Pi, Lincoln, Zero Dark Thirty
- Best motion picture — musical or comedy. Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Les Misérables, Moonrise Kingdom, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, Silver Linings Playbook
- Best director. Ben Affleck, Argo; Kathryn Bigelow, Zero Dark Thirty; Ang Lee, Life of Pi; Steven Spielberg, Lincoln; Quentin Tarantino, Django Unchained
- Best actor, motion picture drama. Daniel Day-Lewis, Lincoln; Richard Gere, Arbitrage; John Hawkes, The Sessions; Joaquin Phoenix, The Master; Denzel Washington, Flight
- Best actress, motion picture drama. Marion Cotillard, Rust and Bone; Jessica Chastain, Zero Dark Thirty; Helen Mirren, Hitchcock; Naomi Watts, The Impossible; Rachel Weisz, The Deep Blue Sea
- Best actor, motion picture musical or comedy. Jack Black, Bernie; Bradley Cooper, Silver Linings Playbook; Hugh Jackman, Les Misérables; Ewan McGregor, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen; Bill Murray, *High Park on Hudson*
- Best drama series. Breaking Bad, Boardwalk Empire, Downton Abbey, Homeland, The Newsroom
- Best comedy series. The Big Bang Theory, Episodes, Girls, Modern Family, Smash



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Forget about that Jingle Bell Rock



SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Tired of the same old Christmas songs? Here are two brand new tracks



Burn the Flames/Mark Lanegan

The former Screaming Trees frontman has a lo-fi solo EP entitled Dark Mark Does Christmas. Correct on all counts.



Angels Without Wings/The Mahones

A fun Christmas song from the new album, Angels & Devils. Good for singing at the pub after a few pints.



2

Songs take spotlight in TV drama Nashville as stars step up to the mic



Australian actress and singer Clare Bowen, who stars as Scarlett O'Connor in the ABC drama series Nashville, sings her own songs.

DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABC drama. Tunes on Music City show has sold more than 800,000 digital singles

Buddy Miller says these days it's not unusual for duet partners to cut their love songs syllable by syllable while never even seeing each other: "In this town especially that's what happens."

That's why the veteran Music City producer and band leader was so astounded by what he witnessed in the early days of working on the music for the television show Nashville. He was nervous about his session with actors Clare Bowen and Sam Palladio because their song If I Didn't Know Better, written

Quote

"They didn't know they didn't have to memorize the song."

Buddy Miller

by John Paul White of The Civil Wars and Arum Rae, was challenging and served as a pivotal moment in the pilot. It had to be right, and that depended on the young actors being able to pull it off.

"They didn't know they didn't have to memorize the song or look each other in the eyes when you're singing a love song," Miller said. "For those two who'd never sung in a studio before to go in there, look each other in the eyes with the song memorized and sing the song, I had goose bumps and so did everybody else in the room. ... That had a whole lot more soul in it than most of the stuff that gets cut in this town."

The music of Nashville has been as much a star on the hour-long ABC drama as Connie Britton, Hayden Panettiere, Charles Esten, Jonathan Jackson, Bowen and Palladio. Yes, each really does sing his or her own part, and so far fans seem to be responding, buying more than 800,000 digital singles. Panettiere's Telescope has even cracked top 40 at country radio.

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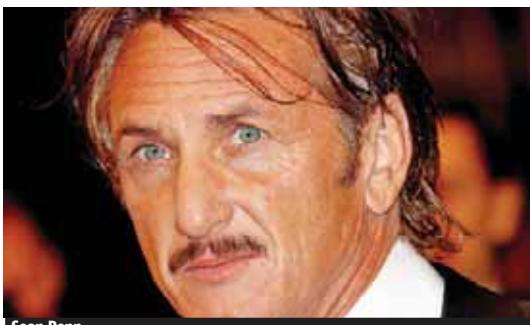
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Sean Penn

Penn delivers insight into romantic past

Two years after his divorce from Robin Wright, Sean Penn is opening up about their marriage — and his entire romantic history. "There is no shame in saying that we all want to be loved by someone. As I look back over my life in romance, I don't feel I've ever had that," he tells Esquire magazine. And while he doesn't mention Wright by name, he does

discuss their split. "When you get divorced, all the truths come out, you sit there and go, 'What the f— was I doing? What was I doing believing that this person was invested in this way?'" he says. "Which is a fantastically strong humiliation in the best sense. It can make somebody very bitter and very hard and closed off, but I find it does the opposite to me."



Gabriel Aubry

Aubry in the clear over brawl with Martinez

Gabriel Aubry won't be facing criminal charges following his Thanksgiving day brawl with Olivier Martinez, the fiancé of ex-girlfriend Halle Berry, according to TMZ. In lieu of a formal hearing, the

Los Angeles City Attorney is expected to hold an informal office meeting to discuss the altercation with Aubry, but the French-Canadian model won't have to worry about any further repercussions.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



30 Rock's Jenna films final fiery tantrum



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Much to 30 Rock fans' chagrin, Jane Krakowski, a.k.a. Jenna on the hit show, is getting a little break for the holiday season now that the sitcom is currently filming their last-ever episode.

"It's a very busy time right now between wrapping up 30 Rock and being a relatively new mom, and we're having Christmas

dinner at our house this year for the first time," she says at an event for Bank of America, which raised money for Feeding America.

"Hopefully it'll be good; we wanted to sort of bring the joy of Christmas to our home, so our whole family is coming over. It should be a nice day and a nice way to sort of start a new chapter with 30 Rock ending."

"Yesterday we shot Jenna's last temper tantrum; it was fantastic. They told me to go as far as I wanted to go and the entire crew applauded when it was over because everyone knew it was the last time Jenna would be insulting people and throwing things."

"It was very fun — incredibly satisfying."



Renee Zellweger ALL PHOTOS GETTY

Zellweger, it seems, has a new man in her life

Renee Zellweger apparently has a new man in her life. The actress was spotted at LAX airport smooching musician and producer Doyle Bramhall, who previously dated Sheryl Crow, according to Us Weekly. "They



Twitter



@ElizabethBanks

Snark all you want hipsters, Billy Joel sounds great. The man's still got it.



@JasonAlexander

Having a blast killing my poker pals at Brad Garrett's house. One more hand, I won this house.



@iamrashidajones

I love E.T. and still believe he is real.



@GarryShandling

Oh, let the Koreans have outer space.



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Home for the holidays with singer Paul Brandt

Christmas traditions.

Country superstar shares why this time of the year is special to him and his family

DAN CLAPSON
life@metronews.ca

Taking a break from promoting his new album, Just as I am, Paul Brandt — Canadian country music star, husband and father of two — shares some of his favourite things about the Christmas season.

He also offers a simple recipe that's sure to be a hit at your next holiday party.

What's your favourite part about spending the holidays with your family?

I'm often overwhelmed with gratitude for my family and our relationships during Christmas. Moments when we can just be together, celebrating, singing, eating and giving gifts to each other are so precious to me.

Do you have any family traditions that take place on Christmas Day?

A mandarin orange being in the toe of our Christmas stockings. The orange has to be eaten, and stockings emptied, before we can move on to the presents.

Are you pretty hands-on in the kitchen while making the holiday dinner?

I like being hands-on, but my mom and mother-in-law do the majority of the work for the big family dinners. I will happily jump in and carve the turkey... and maybe reserve a choice piece or two for myself as payment for my services.

Do people ever request an impromptu mini-Christmas concert in December? Do you have a favourite holiday song to sing?

I am often asked to sing around Christmas ... and I don't know why, but one of my favourites to sing has always been I'll Be Home For Christmas. Probably one of the most depressing Christmas songs ever, but I love



Paul Brandt loves the holiday spirit. *Fruit Cake? Not so much.* SUBMITTED

Paul's Pickled Shrimp

When Paul Brandt has guests during the holiday season, he serves up this easy to make Pickled Shrimp appetizer.

1. Thaw shrimp under cool

Ingredients

- 1-2 bags cooked frozen shrimp
- onions, sliced thinly
- several bay leaves
- 1 cup olive oil
- 3/4 cup white vinegar

- 3 tbsp capers with juice
- 2 1/2 tsp celery seed
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 6 drops Tabasco sauce
- Juice of 2 lemons

water and drain. Layer shrimp, onion and bay leaves in shallow dish. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over shrimp. Cover and chill 24 hours. **RECIPE BY PAUL BRANDT**

crooning it.

Fruitcake. Love it or hate it?

Is "loathe" too strong a word?

What is the one thing in your life that really makes the holidays complete?

For me, the Christmas season is all about my faith. This faith perspective during the holidays reminds me to go out of my way to think about and help others, and when I do, I feel like the holidays really come together for me in a special and always memorable way.



Glass full of holiday spirit

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealvineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Though it took a few bottles of bubbly and repeat viewings of A Charlie Brown Christmas, I've finally found my holiday spirit.

While I'm sure some of you will have an alternative to turkey as the star of your Xmas meal, the big bird is it for the majority of us, so this week I'm focusing on white wines to match.

Roast turkey never makes an appearance in the dining room alone. And it's all of the side dishes (like cranberry sauce, herbaceous stuffing and sweet potatoes) that have the greatest chance of clashing with your wine choice.

An off-dry white made with the peppery gewürztraminer grape or medium-dry riesling grape from any country is a great pick. So is one made with sauvignon blanc from France.

I'm partial to a lightly oaked chardonnay. The majority of white French Burgundy wines fit the bill, as do many chards from Australia, Chile, Canada and California.

The 2010 J. Lohr Riverstone Chardonnay (\$18.95 - \$22.99) used to be an oak bomb, but recent vintages have seen it transformed into a mouth full of tropical fruit with butterscotch aromatics and a subtle, turkey-friendly tone of wood.

Next week, the reds. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**



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3
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Banana French Toast Bake. Delicious blend



1. Place 4 slices of bread in a single layer in a buttered 23-cm (9-inch) square baking dish. Top with bananas and 4 slices of raisin bread.

2. In a blender or food processor, blend milk, cream cheese, eggs, sugar, flour and vanilla until smooth. Pour over bread. Let stand for 5 minutes or cover and refrigerate overnight.

3. Bake in a 180 C (350 F) oven for 40 to 45 minutes (50 to 55 minutes if it's been refrigerated) until set and top is toasted. Let stand for 10 minutes.

4. Cut french toast into diagonal halves and remove with

spatula. Dust servings with powdered sugar, if desired.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/SUN-MAID

Ingredients

- 8 slices raisin cinnamon bread
- 2 medium bananas cut in 5-mm (1/4-inch) slices
- 250 ml (1 cup) milk
- 125 ml (4 oz) softened cream cheese
- 3 eggs
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) sugar
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- 10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla extract
- Powdered sugar

If you can make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and fry an egg, you already have all the skills needed to make this incredible Christmas morning stuffed French toast.

We start with cinnamon swirl bread and make sandwiches using cream cheese spiked with dried cranberries and crystallized ginger. Dunk the sandwiches in eggs blended with cinnamon and a bit more ginger, then toss them in the pan. But don't forget the maple syrup!

Want to get a jump on this

Ingredients

- 4 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup chopped dried cranberries
- 2 tbsp finely chopped crystallized ginger
- 1 tbsp honey
- 8 slices cinnamon swirl bread
- 4 eggs
- 2/3 cup fat-free half-and-half
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground dry ginger
- Butter, as needed
- Maple syrup, to serve

The Phoenix Nutcracker Luncheon was a resounding success raising approximately \$80,000 to help at-risk and homeless youth in our community find a better path.

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AEC DIGITAL MARKETING

Cranberries and cream cheese unite in Christmas breakfast



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the night before? Prepare the sandwiches up to the step of soaking them in the egg mixture. Refrigerate them until morning, then proceed as directed. You'll have delicious French toast on the table in less time than it takes for the kids to empty their stockings.

1. In a small bowl, mix together the cream cheese, cranberries, crystallized ginger and

honey. Divide this mixture between 4 slices of the cinnamon swirl bread, spreading to just 1/2 inch from the edge. Top with the remaining 4 slices of bread to make 4 sandwiches.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, half-and-half, cinnamon and dry ginger.

3. Dunk each of the sandwiches into the egg mixture

to thoroughly coat and soak them.

4. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt just enough butter to coat the pan. Working in batches, fry the sandwiches for 4 minutes per side, or until nicely toasted and heated through. Add butter between batches. Serve warm with maple syrup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.



All Aboard: Christmas At Sea

Once again, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is offering a variety of events and workshops as part of the holiday season. Closing Sunday, the schedule includes a Stop Motion Animation Workshop, and a variety of craft exhibits and workshops not to mention the LEGO exhibit opening. LEGO: City by the Sea will once again be on display in the temporary exhibit area. Visit: museum.gov.ns.ca



Stick 'em up: The Heist Before Christmas

On now through Sunday, Alderney Landing Dinner Theatre presents The Heist Before Christmas. When five washed-up entertainers giving a charity Christmas concert are suspected of double-dealing, mayhem and hilarity ensue but what happens in Vegas ... ends up on stage. The evening will also include a chance to win by trying your luck before and after the show with casino games in the Theatre Rotunda. Visit: alderneylanding.com



Cheers!: Holiday Toast 2012

The Khyber Centre for Art Tapes and Eyelevel Gallery, with host Paul Doucette, are inviting all arts organizations and artists throughout HRM and beyond to come make a toast to the arts. Starting at 8 p.m. on Friday, the evening will feature performances by The Quaker Parents and The Luras. The event is an opportunity to share thoughts, ideas, and visions on how we can come together to celebrate.



Fa La La: A King's Christmas

Listed by the CBC as one of the Top 10 classical Christmas concerts to check out this Season, the King's College Chapel Choir presents a feast of seasonal song and story. The choir is directed by five-time Grammy winner Paul Halley, and narrated by Alexander MacLeod. Cathedral Church of All Saints will be home to two shows on Sunday at 3 and 7:30 p.m. For tickets call: 422-1270 261

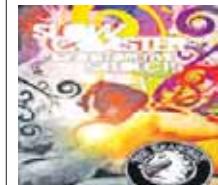


Ho! Ho! Ha! Hal! Ha! Holidays

Friday and Saturday, put the shopping and wrapping on hold, and give yourself a night off. Grab some friends, head down to Casino Nova Scotia and get ready to laugh. You don't even have to worry about dinner. Your evening includes a three-course buffet dinner to go along with a hilarious night of comedy. With an evening featuring Greg Morton and friends, make sure to book your tickets now.



MIX OF SIX
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca



The Band Before Time

On the heels of its latest musical offering, Other Blunders, which was released Thursday, you can check out on BBT's website or you can experience it for yourself Saturday night at The Seahorse. Doors open at 9 p.m. and tickets are only \$15 — a deal when you consider you not only get the new stuff from BBT, but also get to take in some Slow-coaster.

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4 SPORTS



The P.E.I. Rocket's forward Erik Robichaud tries to catch Halifax Mooseheads centre Matthew Boudreau as he skates up the ice at Halifax Metro Centre on Thursday night. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Star-less Moose beat the Rocket

Character win.

Halifax plays well even without its three leading scorers



PHILIP CROUCHER

philip.croucher@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads gave Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin another reason to smile on Thursday.

On the same night the star forwards found out they had made the Canadian junior hockey team, the Mooseheads went out without them and beat the Rocket 3-1 before 7,032 fans at the Metro Centre.

"It's a great accomplishment for them and all the boys were pretty pumped when they heard (they made it)," said Mooseheads defenceman Steve

Gillard.

"But with all those guys that we're missing, we wanted to make a statement that we still have a lot of depth and are a good team. I think we showed that tonight."

With MacKinnon, Drouin and fellow forward Martin Frk, who is trying out for the Czech Republic junior team, out of the lineup, the opportunity was there for some of the team's lesser-knowns to step up and make an impact.

Step forward left-winger Dominic Beauchemin, who scored his second and third goals of the season and was the game's first star.

"It's nice to have opportunities like that — I took it," said Beauchemin, who has dressed in 24 of the team's 31 games, mostly on the fourth line.

Also playing a starring role in the win was netminder Zach Fucale. Considered a possible

Chosen Moose

Fans cheer junior picks

The Halifax Mooseheads players found out Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin made Team Canada at about the same time many fans in the stands did.

The PA announcer let everyone know midway through the second period and the crowd responded with a standing ovation.

Canadian junior camp invite himself, the 17-year-old finished with 28 saves including several highlight-reel stops.

"He played really well for us tonight," said Gillard. "We just have to keep that going for the weekend. We have two more

games in the next two nights."

Matthew Boudreau added his 21st marker in the second, putting him just one behind MacKinnon for the team lead in goals.

Halifax hosts the Bathurst Titan on Friday at 7 p.m.

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Rainmen lose on last-second three

What goes around has come around for the Halifax Rainmen.

Six nights after winning on a Hail Mary shot from well before half-court as the buzzer sounded at home to the Oshawa Power, the Rainmen felt the sting of defeat Thursday on a last-second shot.

Antonio Burks fired a three as time expired that banked in off the glass as the host Saint John Mill Rats beat Halifax 98-97 in National Basketball League of Canada action at Harbour Station.

"That happens," Rainmen coach Rob Spon said of how they lost. "So, it's kind of even Steven."

However, Spon said his players should never have been in the position they were at the end of the game. The Rainmen led by 14 points at the break, only to be outscored 30-20 in the third quarter to let Saint John back in the game.

"We haven't had that killer instinct yet. We did need to get that," he said. "We let them right back in the game and we can't do that."

It was another balanced attack offensively for Halifax, with six players finishing in double figures. Josiah Turner had 19 points to lead the way.

Halifax, now 7-6, returns to action Sunday when it hosts the Summerside Storm at 2 p.m.

"We have to regroup," Spon said. "We have to get better and better and we will."

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



Rob Spon JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

Oh Canada: MacKinnon, Drouin make world juniors

Set your DVR. Play begins at the world juniors in Ufa, Russia, on Boxing Day

 **PHILIP CROUCHER**
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

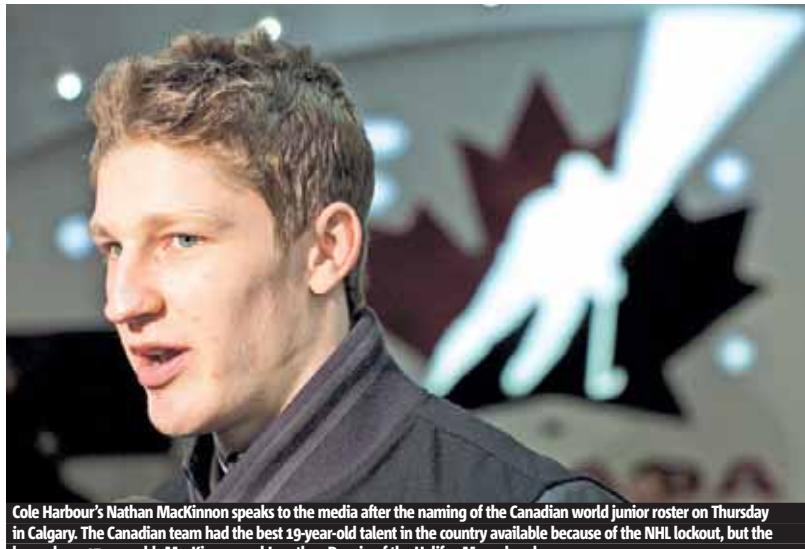
Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin were soaking up the moment on Thursday night — and who could blame them.

Both had just been named to Team Canada's junior team after surviving a gruelling, three-day camp in Calgary.

"Today was surreal," said MacKinnon, a Cole Harbour native who becomes the first Nova Scotian to make the Canadian junior squad since Brad Marchand of Hammonds Plains did it in 2007 and 2008.

"I'm very proud. I worked a long time for this.... It's been a great day for me."

Great day, and a nerve-wracking one. Both MacKinnon



Cole Harbour's Nathan MacKinnon speaks to the media after the naming of the Canadian world junior roster on Thursday in Calgary. The Canadian team had the best 19-year-old talent in the country available because of the NHL lockout, but the brass chose 17-year-olds MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin of the Halifax Mooseheads. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

and Drouin were on the ice for Canada's final selection camp exhibition game on Thursday afternoon — a 2-0 win over the

University of Calgary Dinos.

From there, it was back to the hotel rooms to await word on whether they would be

among the final eight cuts.

By 8 p.m. AST, all was clear and the two stars of the Halifax Mooseheads had made Team

Quoted

"The coaches like what they saw in camp and I'll try and bring that to Russia."

Mooseheads forward Jonathan Drouin

Canada.

"Definitely a tough hour — very nerve-wracking," said MacKinnon, who spoke to Metro by phone shortly after the team was introduced to the media.

Drouin added during the same phone call: "It was some really nervous moments."

Now that they're on the team, the focus will switch to the roles both will play. It's something MacKinnon and Drouin say they will think about, but Thursday night was for soaking up the moment and the great accomplishment that they had achieved.

"It's been a fun day," MacKinnon said. "Whatever role I get, I'll accept it, embrace it."

Sweet 17

Moose duo highlights QMJHL contingent

Halifax Mooseheads teammates and linemates Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin were among the 13 forwards chosen by Canada for the 2013 world junior hockey championship starting Dec. 26 in Ufa, Russia.

On the 1995 and 2005 junior teams which were also bolstered by lockouts, defenceman Wade Redden (1995) and Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby (2005) played as 17-year-olds.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins of the Edmonton Oilers is the lone NHLer, but there are a few who would have played in the pros this season if not for the lockout.

The Ontario Hockey League dominates the team with 11 players, followed by the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League with six and the Western Hockey League with five. All three goaltenders are from the OHL.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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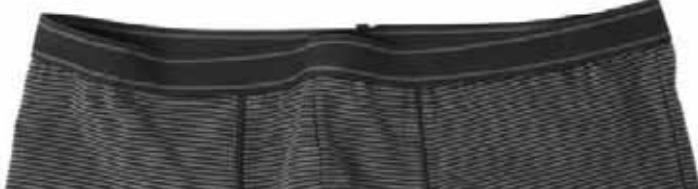
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NHL

Lockout sides
meet face-to-face

Two days of talks between the NHL, the players' association, and federal mediators still haven't provided any answers for how to end the lockout.

Representatives from the fighting sides made it into the same room with a federal mediator Thursday. They just didn't make noticeable progress.

Players' association special counsel Steve Fehr, who met with league lead counsel Bob Batterman on Thursday, said the sides intend to talk Friday in person or by phone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamilton to let fly with Angels

MLB. Hamilton, the AL's most valuable player in 2010, gets second-highest salary in the league

Josh Hamilton left the Texas Rangers on Thursday and agreed to a \$125-million US, five-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels.

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said the slugging free-agent outfielder had reached a deal with the AL West rival Angels. Two people familiar with the talks disclosed the amount and length of the con-

tract, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not yet final.

Hamilton's \$25-million average salary matches Philadelphia first baseman Ryan Howard for the second-highest in baseball, trailing only Alex Rodriguez's \$27.5-million average with the New York Yankees.

Texas had hoped to re-sign the 2010 AL most valuable player, who led the Rangers to consecutive World Series appearances in 2010 and 2011.

"I never expected that he was going to tell us to the dollar what they had, and a chance to offer it," Daniels said Thursday after a Rangers holiday luncheon.

"Our full expectation, the

Big-spending Angels

- Hamilton joins a team that spent big last off-season to add first baseman Albert Pujols for \$240 million and pitcher C.J. Wilson — Hamilton's Texas teammate — for \$77.5 million.
- Yet the Angels disappointed and failed to make the playoffs.

phone call was going to be before he signed, and certainly not after," Daniels added. "Everybody's got to make their own calls." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Highly prized free agent Josh Hamilton, pictured as a Texas Ranger in October, has signed a contract with the Los Angeles Angels. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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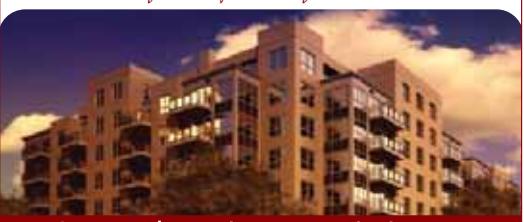


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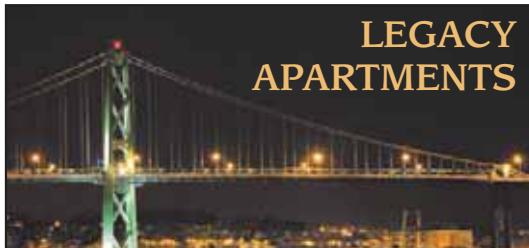
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SOLD Oct. 2012



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2 Finishes
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FREE COMPUTER MATCH TINTING SERVICE AT BOTH STORES

\$5 off
PER GALLON
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HOLIDAY BONUS
15% off
Any paint
accessory
with ACE paint
purchase

Here's How to WIN:

- Buy and Ace Brand or Imagination Series paint...
- Mention you're painting a room for the Holidays; bring or e-mail a "before" picture and then an "after" shot when you're finished.

On Friday, Dec. 27 we'll pick a winner (one at each store) who will receive an Ace Gift Card for the value of their paint purchase for that room! (The odds are great!)



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(comes in up to 5000W)

Heats up to
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Runs on about
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10% off "LIBERTY" purchase

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0%[†]
+
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ON SELECT MODELS
IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[‡]

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2012 CANADIAN & NORTH
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GET UP TO
\$2,000
WITH 0%[†]
IN PRICE
ADJUSTMENTS[‡]
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24 MONTHS
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ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
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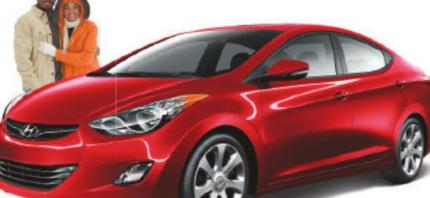
HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.8L/100 KM

SE with Tech. shown

2013 ELANTRA GT
2013 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR
(OVER \$21K)

GET UP TO
\$1,850
WITH 0%[†]
IN PRICE
ADJUSTMENTS[‡]
FINANCING FOR
24 MONTHS
FRIENDS & FAMILY
SELLING PRICE
\$18,794[‡]

ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.



HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 ACCENT
2012 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR
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\$425
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IN PRICE
ADJUSTMENTS[‡]
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FRIENDS & FAMILY
SELLING PRICE
\$14,369[‡]

ACCENT 4-DOOR L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.



HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.8L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SONATA
THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT FULL-SIZED
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SONATA GL AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.



HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

GLS model shown

2013 SANTA FE
2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV
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FRIENDS & FAMILY
SELLING PRICE
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SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.



HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

5 YEAR
WARRANTY
100,000 KM
COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY^{**}

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HYUNDAI
100,000 KM
COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY^{**}

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty

5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty

5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HYUNDAI
100,000 KM
COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY^{**}



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